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BOOK REVIEWS

A Spanish Grammar. With Practical Introductory Lessons. By ALFRED COESTER. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1912. Pp. vi+334.

This work deserves the careful consideration of every teacher of Spanish. The first part, divided into twenty-two lessons, furnishes sufficient grammatical material for the first year's work in high schools. This portion of the book contains few innovations, but follows rather the best models, perhaps most closely Fraser and Squair's *French Grammar*. Laudable points in Part I are: strict limitation of grammatical theory to the essentials, good drill exercises, abundant Spanish themes consisting of connected texts, questions on which to base colloquial drill, sentences for translation that are neither too abundant nor too difficult. Others may find, as the reviewer has done, that the later lessons are somewhat overloaded.

Part II is constructed on more original lines. The author has included in the systematic treatment of the various parts of speech only the details that the second- or third-year student should know, thus making a book for study rather than for reference. The difficult task of separating the essential from the unimportant has been done with skill, and the illustrative sentences are well chosen. The exercises, consisting of English sentences for translation into Spanish, are practical and to the point, rather than of the prize-puzzle variety so often found in advanced grammars. The vocabulary, however, occasionally fails to provide all the information necessary for the correct translation of the exercises. Although the author has rendered a real service to teaching in excluding the mass of detail that serves more often to confuse rather than to enlighten the student, he has still given too much rather than too little information. Many teachers will find it profitable to postpone the study of Part II until the class has done much more composition work than is provided for in Part I. It may also be of practical value to study the verb before the other parts of speech.

Chap. xvii, on the "Infinitive and Subjunctive Moods," is the least satisfactory in the book. The rules are indefinite, the examples are sometimes misleading, and the basis for the classification of the subjunctive is far from clear. A glance at rule § 277 (1) and examples under § 277 (1a) and (2), or rules and examples under § 278 (1) and (5) will show the justness of this criticism. The author should revise the chapter at the first opportunity.

The book is well printed, and for a first edition is comparatively free from typographical errors.

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